

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 03761 120617Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 PM-05 NSC-05  
SS-15 OMB-01 /061 W  
-----096982 121732Z /62

R 111257Z NOV 77  
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9422  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
MCONSUL DANA 1495

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3761

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, TU  
SUBJECT: LOCAL ELECTIONS

1. AS PRELUDE TO DECEMBER 11 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, PRIMARIES IN AREA NOVEMBER 6 PRODUCED SOME SIGNS OF DISSENSION AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP). NOTABLY IN KOCAELI, DISPUTE BETWEEN LOCAL RPP POLITICOS THREATENED OPEN BRECH WHEN POPULAR INCUMBENT MAYOR OF IZMIT WAS NARROWLY BEATEN BY RPP "CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS" CANDIDATE. DESPITE RUMBLINGS ABOUT BOLGING PARTY, PERSONALITIES INVOLVED NOW APPEAR TO BE RESOLVING DIFFERENCES WITHIN PARTY STRUCTURE. LESS PUBLICIZED DISPUTES IN OTHER PROVINCES HAVE ALSO APPARENTLY BEEN SURMOUNTED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PARTY UNITY.

2. IN ISTANBUL PROVINCE ITSELF, UNPOPULAR INCUMBENT RPP MAYOR, AHMET ISVAN, WAS BEATEN BY HEALTHY MARGIN. RPP'S CANDIDATE FOR COUNTRY'S MOST IMPORTANT MAYORAL CONTEST WILL BE OLD PARTY PRO AYTEKIN KOTIL, CURRENT PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN. DURING PRIMARY CAMPAIGN ISVAN INEFFECTUALLY ATTEMPTED TAG KOTIL WITH CORRUPTION CHARGES. KOTIL DOES NOT HAVE CLEANEST REPUTATION IN  
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TOWN-HIS REPORTED CONSIDERABLE WEALTH IS RUMOURED DUE TO SHADY REAL ESTATE DEALS AND CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS. HOWEVER, ECIVIT'S SCHOOL CHUM, AHMET ISVAN, PUT IN SUCH A LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS THAT HE WAS EASY PICKINGS. ONE RPP INTELLECTUAL CHARACTERIZED CONTEST BETWEEN KOTIL AND ISVAN AS "CHOICE BETWEEN A CROOK AND A FOOL." NONETHELESS, KOTIL, WHOM ISVAN PLEDGED TO SUPPORT, IS ACCOMPLISHED ORGANIZER (UNDER

HIS GUIDANCE RPP WON NEARLY 60 PERCENT OF PROVINCE'S VOTE IN JUNE 5 NATIONAL ELECTIONS), AND HE IS SAFE BET TO BE NEXT MAYOR OF ISTANBUL. SHOULD RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, WHO IS IDOLIZED BY MAN IN STREETS HERE, CAMPAIGN EXTENSIVELY IN PROVINCE, MARGIN OF VICTORY COULD GIVE PARTY DRAMATIC SHOW OF STRENGTH IN TURKEY'S MAJOR URBAN CENTER.

3. PRINCIPAL OPPONENT OF KOTIL, JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CANDIDATE, AZIZ GUMUS, WHO WAS NAMED BY JP PARTY HEADQUARTERS, SHOULD NOT BE SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO RPP VICTORY IN ISTANBUL. JP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN TOLD US THEY WERE LOOKING FOR MAN WITH NO STRONG POLITICAL PARTY CONNECTIONS WHO COULD ATTRACT INDEPENDENT VOTERS. GIVEN PREPONDERANCE OF RPP HERE, HE ACCEPTED PRACTICAL REALITY THAT THIS WAS ONLY POSSIBLE SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY FOR JP. BUT "NONPARTISAN" GUMUS IS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN (HE HEADED STATE PAPER ENTERPRISE FOR 10 YEARS), AND ALTHOUGH HE COULD SURPRISE US AND BE STRONG CAMPAIGNER, HE IS UNLIKELY TO OVERCOME RPP ADVANTAGE.

4. SURVEYING ELEVEN PROVINCES IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, WE EXPECT RPP TO MAKE GAINS. IN CURRENT LINE-UP, RPP HOLDS MAYORALTIES IN SIX OF PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND JP FIVE. THREE OF LATTER ARE HELD BY STRONG INCUMBENTS, BUT JP LIKELY TO LOSE AT LEAST ONE OF OTHER TWO TO RPP. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH ECONOMIC SITUATION AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE RPP ANOTHER INCREASE IN ITS SUPPORT AT POLLS IN AREA. THIS WILL CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREND WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN LAST SEVERAL ELECTIONS. HOUGHTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LOCAL ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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